15 Staron- School Ceminiscences. in the old colored pix not nowe, at worth Throw which should on the same wile in the present shouldere. El van en mi in comme reulding devoid of paint both in ite and met. There was a for a soulof the landing when the ligs of wood from the like of these Cerved two purposes, or e as a footstool, and the other for me with it the cold cold out Riene erick and creace. Into there in the june les avere crowded entity put to you in your interes were large me there time. There was the indule family of the of maid the il maides the illow as the Chickan, the Saferer, the Whichen two brother with ten shill tren each - and the "ol man famile of vinelin children. one of or accounter to the following it ade to send their suldness to without then the diroudifts were so to get, asto indo the their yen to a cled and that it is and and perhaps their news ton historie or hood in at the siller of the a string thorecast fire mice. The sefection the second in the House days, we to be the time of the source



to the words rear by, to cut a supring to be used on the of tunself for some misternanon a on one of this compoundous, in orpo al plus when I indered of moral success was used interce any or relines it was the fill metall of the tite and its no do still to non to our wests are of the toucher is al the but lig wire datale ou or of escure of be a vista. i des finte would in, dumes con es on the divice with wo in your me, and all must well be quil it was neder that is ceived the viow and not the thank. the price duck corin, wither I am hard the Erchers, and prusien strength will as browns en red in the quare valions of ta edicounionas ent. Melian Curior a den to Dr. Alden Luter, passon of the Suplist church in France, wie laught the school in one of the porties, there a wouth of minetern in as one who willed by live and his propiles toold and I remember how intern south for a comed respected from the dup, as the little children der to pe the whole eig from of the two severons, and the baising class composed of a ren men as it there seemed to us, we dished row will toech day because it was almost the ast sec elation effort the x chief would be dismissed, continuing the most of the well wing the him while word of the webster of the webster of the webster of the wing the house in the wing the house in the words of the wing the house in the wind of the wing the house in a second wind of the wing the house is a winder with beginning the Monday the Willewing the house is a



in sinvol munter would often drop in, imetimes by two, simetimes by threes, and one would some in lightly on liploe, apparently to surprise !! There were all expected to make simicks at the close of the elesions und we were expected to keep very still till each had taken his tuen. The cre-gy send in this expanity, Among outside of the clergy, are the names of Eigah Berna, Solomon Calbut and Lennel V. Henris. He recall the woods reser by where we made play house with stones, with the leaves of the rake here for carpets.
the spring a chirt distance runs which supplied the school with water the the tall tree on the hill above it where we often the our dinners; the great cake in the posture clumbed by to morning Jest-all these and many other pictures crowd our memory. Elizabeth M. Billings,

Hartford, Conn., March 17.1904.



A South Sharon School Reminiscence

Among my earliest recollections is the old wood-colored school house at South Sharon which stood on the same site as the present structure. It was a rough building devoid of paint – both inside and out. There was a long seat running on the sides of the building and the boys used to bring huge logs of wood from the wood-pile and these served two purposes, one as a footstool and the other for warmth as the cold came in at every crack and crevice. Into these small quarters were crowded sixty pupils for the families were large in those days. There was the Tisdale family of ten children, the Howards, the Morses, the Dunbars, the Capens, the Drakes – two brothers with ten children each – and the Tolman family of nineteen children. Those fathers showed their appreciation of the value of an education in the efforts they made to send their children to school. When the snowdrifts were so high as to render the roads almost impassable they would yoke their oxen to a sled and take their own and perhaps their neighbors children to school. Some of the children came a distance of three or four miles.

The Schoolmaster, as he was termed in those days, used to send one of the boys out to the woods nearby to cut a sapling to be used on the boy himself for some misdemeanor or on one of his companions, as corporal punishment instead of moral suasion was used in those days. Sometimes it was the ferule instead of the stick and it would strike terror to our hearts when the teacher and big boy were deciding which should be master. This ferule would sometimes come down on the desk with wonderful force and all might well be glad it was the desk that received the blow and not their hand. The prudential committee man hired the teachers and physical strength as well as brains entered into the qualifications of the schoolmaster elect.

William Harrison Alden, the Dr. Alden later pastor of the Baptist church in Sharon who taught the school in one of the forties, then a youth of nineteen, was one who ruled by love and not by the rod, and his pupils loved and respected him.

I remember how interminably long seemed the days, as the little children were kept the whole six hours of the two sessions, and the parsing class composed of men and women as it then seemed to us, was looked forward to each day because it was almost the last recitation before the school would be dismissed.

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There were six months of school each year, the summer term beginning the first Monday in June, and continuing through the hottest of the weather and the winter term beginning the Monday following Thanksgiving.

The school committee would often drop in, sometimes by twos, sometimes by threes, and one would come in lightly on tiptoe, apparently to surprise us. They were all expected to make remarks at the close of the sessions and we were expected to keep very still till each had taken his turn. The clergymen often served in this capacity. Among those outside of the clergy are the names of Elijah Hewins, Solomon Talbot and Lemuel D. Hewins.

We recall the woods near by where we made play houses with stones, with the leaves of the oak tree for carpets; the spring a short distance away which supplied the school with water with the tall tree on the hill above it where we often ate our dinners; the great rock in the pasture climbed by so many feet – all these and many other pictures crowd our memory.

Elizabeth M. Billings,

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